

P. O. Box 313

Quaker Hill, CT 06375

5 May 1999

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Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

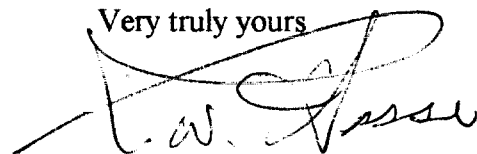
I understand that you are considering a ruling that would allow the selling of irradiated food without any label indication the food had undergone a radiation process. Further, that this ruling is to be acted upon by 18 May.

I firmly believe that the nature and type of food I eat in large measure determines the state of my well-being. I further believe that I should be provided, with the enforcement of law, with all the information about a particular food product that will allow me to make an intelligent decision about the suitability of a particular food product to my dietary rationales. Much of this is provided now with respect to freshness and vitamin, mineral and fat content.

I do not believe that the fact that a food product has been irradiated should be hidden. The long term health effects of eating irradiated food are unknown. Irradiation reduces the vitamin content of food and creates new chemical substances called radiolytic products. Some of these substances are known carcinogens. These are important considerations for me. And it is a fundamental obligation of the government to provide me with the information that will allow me to make informative judgment on such matters. Further, it is highly suspicious that there are forces that wish to hide the fact that a food product has been irradiated. Obviously there exists significant opinion that such a procedure is not beneficial.

I do not support this proposed ruling and, if it is to be considered, I feel the deadline date of 18 May should be extended to allow more concerned citizens time to respond to this issue.

Very truly yours



Raymond W. Hasse

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